News Release

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IMPORTER ASSESSMENT RATES FOR TOBACCOS OTHER THAN FLUE-CURED

WASHINGTON, September 18, 1996 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced assessment rates effective October 1, 1997, on unmanufactured tobaccos other than flue-cured tobacco, which are imported for consumption. The assessment rates are the same as for domestically-produced tobacco of a like kind for which there is a domestic price support program. The rates will remain in effect through September 30, 1998. The no-net-cost assessments (NNCA) and the budget deficit marketing assessments (BDMA) for kinds of tobacco other than flue-cured tobacco are shown in the following table.

Tobacco Importer Assessment Rates
Effective October 1, 1997 -- September 30, 1998

Kinds of Tobacco	NNCA Cents per		BDMA Cents per	
	Lb.	Kilo.	Lb.	Kilo.
Burley	.2400	.5291	1.7600	3.8801
VA Fire-Cured (Type 21)	n/a	n/a	1.4980	3.2025
KY-TN Fire-Cured (Types 22 and 23)	n/a	n/a	1.6230	3.5781
Dark Air-Cured (Types 35 and 36)	n/a	n/a	1.3980	3.0820
VA Sun-Cured (Type 37)	n/a	n/a	1.3260	2.9233

The total amount of each assessment is due within 10 business days after imported tobacco is released by the U.S. Customs Service for entry for consumption into the commerce of the United States. Failure to pay or timely pay the amount of assessments due can result in a marketing penalty being assessed for the quantity of tobacco for which such failure occurred. The marketing penalty will be the same as that established for the like kind of domestic tobacco.

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Flue-cured tobacco no-net-cost and budget deficit marketing assessments were announced June 18, 1997.

Further program information is available from Dave Anderson, telephone (202) 690-2518.

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NOTE: Farm Service Agency (FSA) news releases and media advisories are available on the World Wide Web at FSA's Home Page: http://www.fsa.usda.gov